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Quad Angles

The One-Watt Wonder of J Is Leaving the Air Today

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Freshmen traditionally get some weird ideas and each class seems to outdo the previous ones in its deans-provoking carryings on. During the past week, in an honest attempt to provide a service for his fellow man, a freshman topped all previous records for freshman shinnanigans.

By his actions this one freshman attracted numerous campus bigwigs to his room, hundreds of students' attention, an invitation from Dean Cox and several visits of Federal Communications Commission spotter trucks. All he did was to open up a radio station in his room in 216 J Building.

Radio station WDUK went on the air last Friday night at "1160 on your dial" has been broadcasting intermittently ever since. This one freshman is at the same time owner, station manager, program manager, disk jockey, news reporter, and publicity director of WDUK. However, he isn't overworked since he can put a stack of long playing records on his three-speed turntable and come back about four hours later and replace them. Occasionally, when he happens to be in the room, he picks up his newly-purchased, $15, athletic sock-covered mike and quips something like, "You are listening to WDUK—the voice of House J. Here today, gone tomorrow. If the FCC is listening; here we are."

WDUK was on the air within six minutes after all the necessary equipment ($175 worth) was gathered, and has had no power or technical failures to date. WDUK has a record library of 76 long playing, 200 45 r.p.m. and 40 78 r.p.m. records capable of playing 60 hours continuously without a repeat.

FCC spotter trucks appeared on campus after they picked up WDUK when its full five watt power was being tested. The station normally operates on one watt power, which is legal without an FCC license, and can be heard under such power for anly about 200 feet; hence WDUK's slogan, "The One Watt Wonder."

I quote the hero freshman himself concerning the beginning and the beginning of the end of WDUK, "Friday night we will admit that things happened contrary to our wishes. With 15 people in our room, and with them applying considerable pressure, we had little choice as to whether to play the party records or not; it is not the policy of the station to do such. We signed-off at 11:15, and immediately thereupon were approached (reproached) by the assistant housemaster of House I, Bob Spivey, who apparently has more jurisdiction over House J than I thought. After 10 minutes I knew nothing more than when he entered, except that trouble was on the way.

"I was aware from the beginning that there would be FCC trouble if it put out too much signal, but I had no expectation of University red tape. Spivey went up to see Bill Werber and Nolan Rogers, both of whom had visited and enjoyed the station the same night. Afterwards I saw the former as to the University's viewpoint on such an operation. He said he'd see Dean Cox. Saturday morning we were informed that Dean McNurlen had OKed the station. Tuesday I received a card from Dean Cox . . ."

So went the beginning and the beginning of the end of radio station WDUK—"The One Watt Wonder"—or, perhaps even better, "The One Week Wonder."